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ASPULL

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER of HEALTH

• FOR THE YEAR ENDING

31st DECEMBER, 1944







ASPULL  
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL




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ASHFIELD HOUSE,  
ASPULL,  
WIGAN.

The Chairman and Members of the  
ASPULL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Annual Report on  
the Health of the District for the year ending  
December 31st, 1944.

I remain,

Your obedient servant,

R. A. COOKE,

Medical Officer of Health.

## TOTAL DEATHS, 1944. S.D. 30.

## Causes of Deaths in Aspull U.D., 1944 :—

Causes of Death.	M.	F.
Cerebro-spinal Fever .....	0	1
Tuberculosis of respiratory system .....	0	3
Cancer .....	5	5
Diabetes .....	1	0
Intracranial Vascular Lesions .....	3	3
Heart Disease .....	10	2
Other Circulatory Diseases .....	2	1
Bronchitis .....	3	0
Pneumonia .....	2	1
Ulcer of Stomach .....	0	1
Other Digestive Diseases .....	0	2
Nephritis .....	0	3
Puerperal and post-abortion Sepsis .....	0	1
Other Maternal Causes .....	0	1
Premature Births .....	0	1
Congenital Causes, etc. ....	2	1
Suicide .....	1	2
Road Traffic Accident .....	0	2
Other Violent Causes .....	1	0
All Other Causes .....	6	3
All Causes .....	36	33

## Live Births :—

	M.	F.
Total .....	48	59
Legitimate .....	48	56
Illegitimate .....	0	3

## Still Births :—

Total .....	3	4
Legitimate .....	3	4
Illegitimate .....	0	0

## Deaths of Infants under 1 year :—

Total .....	1	2
Legitimate .....	1	2
Illegitimate .....	0	0

Resident Population : 6002.



**Birth Rates, Death Rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Death Rates, and Case Rates for certain Infectious Diseases in the year 1944.** England and Wales—London, 126 Great Towns and 148 Smaller Towns.  
(Provisional Figures based on Weekly and Quarterly Returns).

	RATE PER 1,000 TOTAL POPULATION.		ANNUAL DEATH-RATE PER 1,000 POPULATION.										RATE PER 1,000 LIVE BIRTHS.	
	Live Births.	Still-Births.	All Causes.	Typhoid and Paratyphoid fever	Scarlet Fever.	Whooping Cough.	Diphtheria.	Influenza.	Small-pox.	Measles.	Total Deaths under One year.	Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under Two years).		
England and Wales . . . . .	17.6	0.50	11.6	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.02	0.12	0.00	0.01	46	4.8		
126 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London.	20.3	0.64	13.7	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.03	0.10	0.00	0.01	52	7.3		
148 Smaller Towns (Estimated Resident Populations 25,000- to 50,000 at 1931 Census).	20.9	0.61	12.4	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.03	0.11	0.00	0.01	44	4.4		
London Administrative County	15.0	0.42	15.7	0.00	0.00	0.04	0.01	0.08	0.00	0.00	61	10.1		

**NOTIFICATIONS.** Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population:—

	Typhoid Fever	Paratyphoid Fever	Cerebro Spinal Fever	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Diphtheria	Erysipelas	Smallpox	Measles	Pneumonia
England and Wales . . . . .	0.01	0.01	0.05	2.40	2.49	0.58	0.29	0.00	4.16	0.97
126 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London	0.01	0.00	0.06	2.41	2.49	0.67	0.32	0.00	4.51	1.13
148 Smaller Towns (Estimated Resident Populations 25,000—to 50,000 at 1931 Census).	0.01	0.01	0.04	2.67	2.29	0.69	0.28	0.00	3.94	0.82
London Administrative County	0.01	0.01	0.06	1.57	2.90	0.31	0.37	0.00	2.98	0.93

Rates per 1,000 Total Births (Live and Still):—

NOTIFICATIONS {  
Puerperal Fever ... }  
Puerperal Pyrexia }

126 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London.

England & Wales.

10.34

148 Smaller Towns

9.25

London County.

3.61  
14.14\*

\* Including Puerperal Fever.

Maternal Mortality—England and Wales:—

No. 140 Abortion with Sepsis: 0.31, No. 141 Abortion without Sepsis: 0.09, No. 147 Puerperal Infections: 0.28, Nos. 142-6, 148-150 Other: 1.25.

Abortion: Mortality per million women aged 15-45—England and Wales ... No. 140 With Sepsis: 25, No. 141 Without Sepsis: 7.



## 1.—STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area in acres, 1,906.

Population—Census, 1931, 7,193.

Registrar-General's estimate of resident population, mid-1944,  
6002.

Number of inhabited houses (Census, 1931), 1,636.

End of 1944 according to Rate Books, 1,804.

Rateable value, £17,526.

Sum represented by a penny rate, £64.

Social conditions, including the chief industries carried on in the  
area :—

The inhabitants are chiefly of the manual working class.  
There is one small cotton mill, a machine bakery, and an  
engineering works working in the district.

Extent of unemployment :—

Permanently unemployed, 28 Men, 13 Women.

Temporarily unemployed, 2 Women.

## VITAL STATISTICS.

Particulars of any unusual or excessive mortality during the year  
which has received or required comment.—None.

Any causes of sickness or invalidity which have been specially  
noteworthy in the area during the year.—None.

Any conditions of occupation or environment which appear to  
have had a prejudicial effect on health.—None.

Any evidence, statistical or otherwise, that unemployment has  
exercised any significant influence on the health or physique  
of children or adults.—None.

## 2.—GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

### PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY.

Medical Officer of Health : R. A. Cooke, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Is he a whole or part-time official of the local authority :  
Part.



Any other public appointments held by him: Public Vaccinator and District Medical Officer.

Is he in private practice: Yes.

Sanitary Inspector: H. Geoffrey Barnes, Sanitary Inspector's Cert., S.I.B. & R.S.I.; Meat and Food Inspector's Cert., M.Inst.R.A., M.Inst.B.E., M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

Whole or Part-Time: Part.

Other appointments held (if any): Highway and Sanitary Surveyor, Water Manager, Food & Petroleum Inspector Rodent Officer.

Other Public Health Officers: None.

Laboratory facilities: No developments or changes.

Ambulance facilities: Services shared with adjoining Authorities and these are adequate.

Nursing in the Home: No developments or changes.

Treatment Centres and Clinics (including Clinics solely for diagnosis and consultation): Under Lancs. C.C.

Hospitals in the district:—

Public: None.

Voluntary: None.

Is there any institutional provision in your area for:—

Unmarried mothers?—No.

Illegitimate infants?—No.

Homeless children?—No.

### 3.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supply:—

Particulars of any new sources of public supply: None.

Is supply satisfactory? (a) in quality: Yes. (b) in quantity: Yes.

Action taken in respect of any form of contamination: None.

If piped supply, state if water has been controlled by bacteriological examination. If so, number of examinations: None.

Chemical analyses—Results: None.

Nature of extensions (if any) during the year: None.



### Drainage and Sewerage :—

Any extension or improvement during the year with regard to works or sewerage system : Sewer extended to convert the sanitation of "Hilton Farm," which produces "Accredited Milk," to a water carriage system.

Any progress made in improving character and sufficiency of arrangements for drainage, sewerage and sewage disposal in all parts of the area : Five extra Access Man-holes have been constructed on the main sewer.

### Rivers and Streams :—

Action taken to check the pollution of rivers and streams :  
None.

Sources and nature of pollution : None.

Closet Accommodation at end of 1944. (Last year's figures in parenthesis).

Privy middens—Number of middens : 10 (22).

Number of closets attached to these middens : 12 (28).

Number of pail closets : 23 (26).

Number of dry ashpits (excluding middens) : None.

Number of movable ashbins : 1,745 (1,736).

Number of houses on water carriage system : 1,762.

Number of fresh water closets : 1,709 (1,701).

Number of waste water closets : None.

### Conversions :—

Number of privy closets	1944
-------------------------	------

To fresh w.c.'s .....	16
-----------------------	----

To waste w.c.'s .....	—
-----------------------	---

To pails, etc. ....	—
---------------------	---

Number of pail closets	
------------------------	--

To fresh w.c.'s .....	3
-----------------------	---

To waste w.c.'s .....	—
-----------------------	---

No. of waste w.c.'s to fresh w.c.'s .....	—
---	---

Number of houses at which movable ashbins have been substituted for fixed receptacles	3
--	---

### Public Cleansing :—

Present methods satisfactory.

Sanitary Inspections during 1944:—

Number of premises visited : 200.

Defects or nuisances—Number discovered, 414. Number abated, 200.

Number of notices served—Informal, 117. Statutory, 20.

Legal proceedings—1. Result—Case won with costs by L.A.

Shops :—

Particulars of any action taken under provisions of Shops Act, 1934, relating to :—

(a) Ventilation of Shops : None.

(b) Temperature of Shops : None.

(c) Sanitary Conveniences : None.

Camping Sites (other than Military) : None.

Smoke Abatement :—

Any special action taken with regard to smoke abatement : None.

Particulars of any co-operative action with industry : None.

Swimming Baths and Pools—Brief particulars of any :—

(a) Public Swimming Baths or Pools : None.

(b) Privately-owned Swimming Baths or Pools open to the public : None.

Any action taken to ensure the satisfactory condition of the water : None.

Eradication of Bed Bugs : Beds voluntarily destroyed and one house satisfactorily sprayed and fumigated.

Schools :—

(a) Sanitary condition : Good.

(b) Water supply : Council's Main supply.

Is it satisfactory? : Yes.

Offensive Trades :—Number : None.

Factories' Act, 1937 :—

Observations on the administration of the Act :

The Sanitary conditions and accommodation in the three factories are satisfactory.

Common Lodging-houses :—

Number on register : None.



Houses let in Lodgings :—

Number on register : None.

Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc. :—

Action taken : None.

Underground Sleeping Rooms :—

Any need for regulations? : No.

Canal Boats : Number Inspected—None.

Rag Flock Acts, 1911 and 1928 :—

State whether there are in the district any premises on which rag flock is manufactured, used or sold : None.

Notable Sanitary Improvements during 1944 : Replacements of Middens by W.C's. ; Sewering of Farm producing Accredited Milk ; Provision of extra manholes in sewer.

#### 4.—HOUSING.

(a) STATISTICS :—

Number of new houses erected during the year :—None.

With State assistance under the Housing Acts :—None.

1. Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year :—

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)—117.

(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose—150.

(2) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation—117.

2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices :—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authorities or their officers—40.

3. Action under statutory powers during the year :—

(a) Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs—12.

- (2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :
  - (a) By owners—8.
  - (b) By local authority in default of owners—1.
- (b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :
  - (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied—6
  - (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :
    - (a) By owners—6.
    - (b) By local authority in default of owners—None
- (c) Proceedings under sections 11 and 12 of the Housing Act, 1936—None.
- (d) Proceeding under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936—None.

4. Housing Act, 1936. Part IV. Overcrowding—None.

(b) HOUSING CONDITIONS :—

- 1. General observations as to housing conditions, including the standard of houses, and any information as to prevailing forms of defects and of prevailing bad conditions resulting from overcrowding :—

The majority of the dwellings are cottages. The average age is about 50 years. The prevailing forms of defects are dampness, effects of wear and tear.

Approximate number of back-to-back houses in the district—5.

- 2. Sufficiency of supply of houses :
  - (a) Extent of shortage (if any)—100
  - (b) Particulars of any housing scheme in hand or contemplated—Programme to erect 75 houses in Withington Lane as and when this becomes possible.
  - (c) Information as to any important changes in population during the period under review or anticipated in the future—It is expected that the district will develop as residential and that an increase will take place.



- (d) Any special difficulties in the way of providing suitable sites for new houses—Difficulties in regard to the utilisation of any existing "Moorland".
3. Overcrowding : None.
4. Fitness of houses :
- (a) Difficulties found in action under the Public Health Acts or under the Housing Acts—Compliance with notices during the year has been very slow due to Labour and Material shortages.
  - (b) No. of houses which have not an adequate internal water supply—None.
  - (c) No. of houses which have no separate water closet or other adequate sanitary accommodation—8.
4. Action taken during the year 1944 regarding Clearance and Improvement Areas—None.

## 5.—INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

### 1. Milk Supply.—Action taken with regard to :—

The administration of The Milk and Dairies (Consolidation) Act, 1915, The Milk and Dairies (Amendment) Act, 1922, and The Milk and Dairies Order, 1926.—Several intimations given to Dairymen for more cleanliness in handling, etc., and these have all been complied with.

The Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936 and 1938)—

Number of dealers' licences (including supplementary licences) issued by the local authority during 1944 in respect of :

"Tuberculin Tested" milk—

(i) Bottling : None.      (ii) Distribution : None.

"Accredited" milk—

(i) Bottling : None.      (ii) Distribution : 2.

Number of licences issued in respect of "Pasteurised" milk :—

Pasteurising plants : None.      Retail distributors : None.

Any refusal or revocation of registration of retailers or of licences for graded milk, with reasons for the refusal or revocation : None.

Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops :—

Are they periodically inspected? : Yes.

How often? : Various times in the year.

What is their condition? : At present satisfactory.

Has any owner undertaken (voluntarily) structural alterations or improvements to farm buildings, e.g., re-modelling of cowsheds? : New Dairy and alterations to cowshed at "Gorses Farm". Reconditioning of the Dairy at "Hilton Farm". The cowshed at "Shepherds' Farm" has been enlarged.

Any information as to cost of work actual or estimated : £1000.

Farms :—

Number of dairy farms . 15.

Approximate number of cows in the district : 252 Milking.

Cowkeepers :—

Number of cowkeepers (including the dairy farms) : 20.

Number of inspections during the year : 70.

Dairymen or purveyors of milk (other than cowkeepers) :—

Number of dairymen or milk purveyors (other than cowkeepers) : 7.

Action taken by local authority as to Tuberculous Milk :—

Number of samples submitted for biological test : None.

Bacteriological examinations :

No. of samples—4. No. satisfactory—4.

2. Meat and other Foods.—Observations on :—

(a) Action taken with regard to meat and other foods, including inspection of meat, slaughterhouses, shops, stalls and vehicles, and places where food is prepared : These were inspected at frequent intervals. 5 tins of meat were surrendered voluntarily during the year which were unfit for human consumption. 2 casualty slaughters of beasts took place and 7 pigs were slaughtered by owners under licences.

Number of legal proceedings and result : None.



(b) Has a public slaughter-house been provided? : No.

(c) Food poisoning (including suspected cases).—Action taken (if any) : None. No cases of food poisoning have occurred.

3. Adulteration, etc. :—

Action taken by local authority (if they are a Food and Drugs Authority) in respect of—

(i) Food and Drugs (Adulteration) Act, 1928, and Food and Drugs Act, 1938 : Local Authority is not a Food and Drug Authority.

(ii) Other Food Acts or Regulations : None.

## 6.—PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Hospital accommodation provided or available :—

For smallpox : Bury and District Joint Hospital Board.

No. of Beds : No definite number.

Where situate : Bury.

Is the hospital used by " agreement " or " arrangement " ? : Agreement.

For other infectious diseases : Aspull, Blackrod, Horwich.  
No. of beds : 5 guaranteed.

Where situate : Horwich.

If a joint hospital, is the district a constituent authority? : Yes.

Infectious diseases generally :—

Review briefly the prevalence of notifiable infectious diseases during the year 1944, and give any noteworthy facts as to the source or spread of infection. (Non-notifiable acute infectious diseases should also be reported upon so far as available information enables this to be done) : There was an epidemic of measles—89 cases being notified, generally it was mild and no deaths were notified from measles.

Give particulars of the clinical type and spread of diphtheria and cerebro-spinal fever : Five cases of Diphtheria of fauces. There were no deaths.

Any local action taken in regard to the use of measles serum for prophylaxis or attenuation? : No.

Particulars of any existing facilities for the typing of pneumococci and for the provision of appropriate type sera : None.

Notes on the supply and prompt use of :—

(a) Diphtheria anti-toxin : Adequate and used promptly.

Are supplies readily available : Yes.

If so, where kept : Council Offices.

(b) Anti-meningococcus serum : None.

Are any other Vaccines or Sera supplied free to Medical Practitioners? : No.

State whether the following diseases were compulsorily notifiable in your district during 1944, and, if so, state for what period :—

Measles (prior to 23rd October, 1944) : Yes.

Whooping Cough (prior to 23rd October, 1944) : Yes.

Diarrhoea (under 2 years) : Yes.

Chicken-pox : No.

Any others : No.

Observations : None.

Pathological and bacteriological examinations. Number of specimens examined in 1944 :—

(a) Diphtheria : 9.

(b) Scarlet Fever : None.

(c) Enteric Fever : None.

(d) Miscellaneous (state nature) : C.F.S. 1.

Immunisation :—

(1) *Diphtheria*. Specify any action taken to provide artificial immunisation :—

(a) In hospitals, residential institutions or schools : Nil.



- (b) At special clinics or day schools: A Clinic is held every month.

Is immunisation material supplied free to medical practitioners? : Yes.

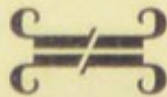
No. of children immunised during the year :—

- (i) Pre-school children, None.
- (ii) School children, None.
- (iii) Adults, None.

Have any post-Schick tests been undertaken : No.

(2) *Scarlet Fever.*

Specify any action taken to provide artificial immunisation :  
None.



## URBAN DISTRICT OF ASPULL.

## NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis) DURING THE YEAR 1944.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES	Total Cases at all Ages	Under 1	TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED YEARS										Total Deaths	Total Cases removed to Hospital	Deaths in Hospital of persons	Hospital belonging from the to district
			1	2	3	4	5	10	15	20	35	45	65 and over			
Scarlet Fever	...	8	—	1	3	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	Nil	Nil	Nil
Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup	...	5	—	1	—	—	1	1	—	1	—	1	—	Nil	Nil	Nil
Measles (excluding German Measles)	...	89	4	5	13	17	15	34	—	1	—	—	—	Nil	Nil	Nil
Whooping Cough	...	5	2	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Nil	Nil	Nil
Acute Pneumonia (primary and influenza)	...	7	2	—	1	—	—	1	—	1	—	1	1	3	Nil	Nil
Erysipelas	...	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	Nil	Nil	Nil
Chicken Pox	...	3	—	1	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	Nil	Nil	Nil
Totals	119	8	6	17	21	17	39	2	—	4	—	3	2	3	Nil	Nil



TUBERCULOSIS.  
NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1944.

Age Periods	NEW CASES				DEATHS (The number of deaths classified should agree with the total supplied by the Registrar General.)			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Years								
0-1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1-5	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...
5-10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
10-15	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...
15-20	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	...
20-25	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
25-35	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...
35-45	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
45-55	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
55-65	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
65 and upwards	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals	3	7	2	2	...	3	...	...
	10		2		3		3	

Disinfection after infectious diseases :—

Number of houses disinfected during 1944: 12.

Method (state disinfectant used): Fumigation.

Apparatus used for clothing, bedding, etc. (steam or otherwise): Steam.

Where is apparatus situated: Wigan.

What is the ratio of non-notified tuberculosis deaths to total tuberculosis deaths?: All deaths from Tuberculosis had been previously notified.

In your opinion, is the notification of Tuberculosis in your district efficient?: Yes.

Has any action been taken in cases of wilful neglect or refusal to notify?: No.

Is there any evidence of excessive incidence of, or mortality from, Tuberculosis in any particular occupation in the district?: No.

PUBLIC HEALTH (PREVENTION OF TUBERCULOSIS)  
REGULATIONS, 1925.

Any action taken under these Regulations relating to Tuberculosis employees in the milk trade?: None.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936.

Any action taken under Section 172, Public Health Act, 1936?: No.

7.—MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

Arrangements for dental treatment: Lancs. County Council.

Arrangements for orthopædic treatment for children under 5 years of age—Nil.



What arrangements have been made under the Puerperal Pyrexia Regulations, 1939, for:—

Consultants—Available where necessary.

Bacteriological examinations—Wigan Infirmary.

Hospital treatment—Chorley.

Provision of nurses—None.

What arrangements have been made under the Public Health (Ophthalmia Neonatorum) Regulations, 1926 to 1937, for:—

Hospital treatment—Wigan Infirmary.

Provision of nurses—None.

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Signed,

R. A. COOKE,

Medical Officer of Health.





